

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A freshness-keeping device for keeping the freshness of food or other material to be preserved, which comprises an adsorbent adsorbed with a volatile freshness-keeping liquid and a film cover made of a material having a high impermeability to gas of the freshness-keeping liquid, which has larger dimensions than the adsorbent to cover the adsorbent from the outside, wherein the cover has a skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent and a dispersing opening is formed at the skirt portion to permit the freshness-keeping liquid to gradually disperse outwardly from the adsorbent, wherein the cover comprises at least one film sandwiching the adsorbent, and wherein a bonding area is formed at the skirt portion by bonding opposing sandwiched surfaces of the at least one film.

2. (Original) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 1, wherein in the film cover, the extension dimension L of the skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent is larger than the thickness T of the adsorbent ($L > T$).

3. (Original) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 1, wherein the cover comprises a single or two films made of a material having a high impermeability each having larger dimensions than the adsorbent and having an outer periphery as the skirt portion extending in the lateral direction of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent wherein the film or films secure the adsorbent by bonding upper and lower surfaces of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent, and the skirt portions extend to an outer side of the adsorbent to provide a dispersing opening by being separated in upper and lower directions.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A freshness-keeping device ~~according to Claim 1 for~~
keeping the freshness of food or other material to be preserved, which comprises an
adsorbent adsorbed with a volatile freshness-keeping liquid and a film cover made of a
material having a high impermeability to gas of the freshness-keeping liquid, which has
larger dimensions than the adsorbent to cover the adsorbent from the outside, wherein the
cover has a skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent and a dispersing
opening is formed at the skirt portion to permit the freshness-keeping liquid to gradually
disperse outwardly from the adsorbent,

wherein the cover comprises a single or two films made of a material having a high impermeability each having larger dimensions than the adsorbent and having an outer periphery as the skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent, and a plurality of bond areas formed at the skirt portions, which are formed by bonding the skirt portions whereby the adsorbent is restricted between the film or films and wherein the dispersing opening is constituted by a non-bond area which is located between the bond areas between the skirt portions of the film or films.

5. (Original) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 4, wherein the adsorbent has a polygonal flat sheet-like shape; the film or films have a shape corresponding to the shape of the adsorbent in which a plurality of corner portions are formed in the skirt portions and the bond areas are formed at at least two corner portions among the corner portions of the film or films.

6. (Currently Amended) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the film or films have a rectangular shape having left and right sides being parallel to

each other and the bond areas are formed at both the left and right sides.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ A freshness-keeping device ~~according to Claim 3 for~~ keeping the freshness of food or other material to be preserved, which comprises an adsorbent adsorbed with a volatile freshness-keeping liquid and a film cover made of a material having a high impermeability to gas of the freshness-keeping liquid, which has larger dimensions than the adsorbent to cover the adsorbent from the outside, wherein the cover has a skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent and a dispersing opening is formed at the skirt portion to permit the freshness-keeping liquid to gradually disperse outwardly from the adsorbent,

wherein the cover comprises a single or two films made of a material having a high impermeability each having larger dimensions than the adsorbent and having an outer periphery as the skirt portion extending in the lateral direction of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent wherein the film or films secure the adsorbent by bonding upper and lower surfaces of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent, and the skirt portions extend to an outer side of the adsorbent to provide a dispersing opening by being separated in upper and lower directions, and

wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and adsorbents are arranged with intervals inside the elongated resinous film or films.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ A freshness-keeping device ~~according to Claim 3 for~~ keeping the freshness of food or other material to be preserved, which comprises an adsorbent adsorbed with a volatile freshness-keeping liquid and a film cover made of a material having a high impermeability to gas of the freshness-keeping liquid, which has

larger dimensions than the adsorbent to cover the adsorbent from the outside, wherein the cover has a skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent and a dispersing opening is formed at the skirt portion to permit the freshness-keeping liquid to gradually disperse outwardly from the adsorbent,

wherein the cover comprises a single or two films made of a material having a high impermeability each having larger dimensions than the adsorbent and having an outer periphery as the skirt portion extending in the lateral direction of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent wherein the film or films secure the adsorbent by bonding upper and lower surfaces of the adsorbent in a state of sandwiching the adsorbent, and the skirt portions extend to an outer side of the adsorbent to provide a dispersing opening by being separated in upper and lower directions, and

wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and a plurality of adsorbents are arranged with intervals on the elongated resinous film or films and a plurality of cut lines are formed in the elongated resinous film or films at positions between individual ~~adsorbents~~ adsorbents to define the film or films.

9. (Previously Presented) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 4, wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and adsorbents are arranged with intervals inside the elongated resinous film or films.

10. (Previously Presented) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 5, wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and adsorbents are arranged with intervals inside the elongated resinous film or films.

11. (Previously Presented) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 6,

wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and adsorbents are arranged with intervals inside the elongated resinous film or films.

12. (Currently Amended) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 4, wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and a plurality of adsorbents are arranged with intervals on the elongated resinous film or films and a plurality of cut lines are formed in the elongated resinous film or films at positions between individual ~~adsorbents~~ adsorbents to define the film or films.

13. (Currently Amended) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 5, wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and a plurality of adsorbents are arranged with intervals on the elongated resinous film or films and a plurality of cut lines are formed in the elongated resinous film or films at positions between individual ~~adsorbents~~ adsorbents to define the film or films.

14. (Currently Amended) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 6, wherein the film or films are made of an elongated strip-like resinous film and a plurality of adsorbents are arranged with intervals on the elongated resinous film or films and a plurality of cut lines are formed in the elongated resinous film or films at positions between individual ~~adsorbents~~ adsorbents to define the film or films.

15. (New) The freshness-keeping device according to Claim 1, wherein the skirt portion includes a non-bond area between the opposing sandwiched surfaces of the at least one film.

16. (New) A freshness-keeping device for keeping the freshness of food or other material to be preserved, which comprises an adsorbent adsorbed with a volatile freshness-

Application Serial No.: 09/869,307
Reply to Office Action dated April 27, 2004

keeping liquid and a film cover made of a material having a high impermeability to gas of the freshness-keeping liquid, which has larger dimensions than the adsorbent to cover the adsorbent from the outside, wherein the cover has a skirt portion extending in a lateral direction of the adsorbent and a dispersing opening is formed at the skirt portion to permit the freshness-keeping liquid to gradually disperse outwardly from the adsorbent, wherein the film cover is joined to a surface of the adsorbent, and wherein the film cover is bonded to the surface of the adsorbent at a bond area that surrounds a non-bond area.